Cloudy and warmer to-day, probably followed by snow; fair to-morrow.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

525 KILLED

Theatre Horror in Chicago.

IROQUOIS BURNED

Matinee Audience in a Trap.

FUMES KILL SCORES.

The Victims Mostly Women and Children.

FIRE CURTAIN DIDN'T WORK.

Hundreds Trampled to Death in a Stampede.

Electric Spark From a Broken Wire Started the Blaze-Draught Swept the Flames Almost Immediately Inte Auditorium-Asbestos Curtain Came Down Part Way, and Increased the Draught-Eddle Foy, Star of "Mr. Bluebeard," the Piece Being Played, Tried to Allay the Pante-Then He All Out Safely-Aisles and Stairways place Became Choked Quickly-Fire Exita Not Adequate-Terrible Panie on the Streets-Details of the Horror.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- More than 500 persons, mostly women and children, perished by are in the Iroquois Theatre this afternoon. At midnight the police estimated the num-

her of the dead at 525. The fire began to snuff out the human lives about 3:35 o'clock, while a matinée performance of "Mr. Bluebeard" was being played. In the midst of the soothing strains of the "Moonlight Song," an electric spark | but hundreds of bodies were already motion from a broken wire shot into the files less within the walls of the playhouse so and an explosion followed. Then, a panic | recently opened. ensued.

From that time on until the flames filled the place the death crush continued. A mass of humanity was jammed into the balcony stairway, surrounded by smoke and flames. The mass soon settled back far into busy State street and the other into a death pose, and there they were found by firemen. Trucks, express wagons and patrol wagons were all in use carrying occurred. Each man asked his neighbor away the bodies.

The asbestos curtain in the theatre would not work, and the flames swept at once to the pit and adjoining walls. All the exits were soon choked by frantic women and children, and those on the inside, terrorstricken at the advancing flames and smoke, were unable to move either way. Late in the afternoon children were taken from the ruins, some burned to a crisp and others trampled beyond recognition. Women by the score were found in a tangled and scorched mass near the stairway.

FIRE CAME IN A MOONLIGHT SCENE. The theatre was almost in darkness in the second act. The stage was lighted only by the soft artificial beams from the calcium, which lent beauty to the scene during the singing of the "Moonlight Song" by the double sextette. A flash of flame shot across through the flimsy draper-

ies, started by a spark. A show girl screamed hysterically. The singers stopped short, but with presence of mind the director increased the volume of the music. Scores rose in their seats as the stage manager shouted an order for the continuation of the song. It was obeyed with feeble hearts. The girls forced the and hurried off to the hospitals, where words from their throats until two of their number swooned.

The audience could no longer be controlled. Eddie Foy then rushed from the wings to the footlights, but his words of reassurance were in vain. Clouds of in the rush. Some were knocked down, smoke poured from the stage into the auditorium, enveloping the struggling mass of panic-stricken men, women and children.

Behind the scenes all was confusion. It required but a moment to perceive that the fire had gone too far to be conquered | gallery. by the amateur fire brigade formed by the stage hands. In the dressing rooms as high as the sixth story were the score of girls of the ballet. At the first alarm the elevator boy fled from his post, and the in each place. The clothes were torn comflames soon shot upward in the wings and made escape by the narrow stairway impossible.

The screams from the imprisoned girls pain. in the upper rows of dressing rooms came to the ears of the more fortunate below, as they rushed to the stage doors. Some stopped for a brief moment, thinking to give aid, but the clouds of smoke, growing denser and denser, forced them to fice. Their escape even then was miraculous.

CHORUS GIRLS DRAGGED AWAY. Those who were singing on the stage

escaped early. Two of their number, who had fainted, were carried by the others and were revived in the alley n the rear of the theatre. In a terrified and hysterical group the girls clustered in the narrow passage that runs from Dearborn

Some had sisters and all had friends in the blazing building. The bitter cold pierced them through and through, for they were clad only in their thin stage gowns, with necks and arms exposed. Nevertheless, they had to be dragged from their station in the alley and into neighboring stores.

The blackened bodies which choked the aisles and stairways, the lines of policemen and firemen carrying limp forms from the building, the overtaxed hospitals, the rows of dead and dying in the surrounding buildings, which were thrown open to the sufferers, tell briefly the tale. Only a few of the terrifying incidents will ever be

The first seconds of the rush for life among those in the audience were quiet, according to those who live to tell the tale. Few, if any, in that throng realized what was to come. They thought only of themselves as they pushed and struggled for every inch as they advanced toward the

HEADLONG RUSH FOR SAFETY.

For an instant the stairways leading from the balcony were a mass of struggling people, with scores behind constantly pushing closer and fighting to get out. Those in the van, unable to keep their footing, fell headlong.

Those behind fell over their prostrate forms, crushing and suffocating them. The scene was then a bedlam. Women and children were in the majority in the fighting crowd and their shrieks of fear mingled with the groans of the injured and the prayers of supplicants to God.

Women seized their babies in their arms, frantically clung to them, beseeching ears that were deaf to entreaty to save them from the terrible fate impending. Had those appealed to been so disposed, they could not have given the assistance so piteously besought.

In the last hope, born of desperation, scores of those in the balcony climbed to the railing and leaped to the pit of the theatre, many feet below. Their bodies were found long afterward, when the smoke had cleared away and the firemen could Warned the Company, and Got Them | grope their way with lanterns into the

The dense smoke quickly rose to the top of the building. To a score of those who had sought to jump from the gallery the smoke was kind, for it brought death quickly. Three women were found hanging over the rail, their faces distorted with agonies of death.

PEDROTRIANS DAKED AS PINOT. From a dozen sources the alarm went to fire headquarters, but before the vanguard of engines wheeled into Randolph street a dense crowd had gathered in front of the theatre. The firemen were quick to act.

those who had been nearest the doors rushed out, their eyes wild with fear. These yelled fire at the top of their voices, and the cry was taken up by the crowd and carried

avenues of commerce. None realized at that minute what had if there had been loss of life or injury. Not entil the first blackened and limp body was borne forth in the arms of a policeman did the importance of the disaster begin to dawn on those in the street.

In fifteen minutes nineteen dead bodie were carried out the Randolph street entrance. Then they came so fast that all

Thompson's restaurant was at once thrown open for temporary use as a hospital. The long tables offered excellent means of service, and upon them the bleeding, burned and moaning were laid.

Within a block are a dozen great buildings occupied almost exclusively by physicians, and in a remarkably short time ; large number of them came to give voluntary service to those in distress. They saved the lives of scores of women and children, frenzied with pain, who would have died in the street.

Every hospital in the city hurried ambulances to the scene, and with them every surgeon who could be spared. They were as nothing, though, compared to the need. Two and three, and in many cases even more, were huddled into the ambulance kindlier attention could be given them.

MOST OF THOSE IN THE ORCHESTRA ESCAPED. occupied orchestra seats escaped with their lives, though scores were badly hurt and with broken limbs were unable to rise.

They were left to die with a number of women who fainted from fright. With these bodies were found the corpses of those who had leaped from the balcony and

In the exits of the balcony and galleries the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen went to remove the bodies they found a hundred or more piled in a mass pletely away from some of the bodies. Here and there a jewelled hand protruded from the pile. All the faces were distorted with

From beneath one mass there suddenly came the moan of a woman. Trembling hands plunged their way into the tangle of human forms, and with a mighty effort pulled to the surface the woman. The blackened lips parted, and a fireman bent

over her to catch the words. "My child, my poor little boy, where is he? Oh, do bring him to me."

Again the lips parted.

of others in that one spot.

"Is he safe? Tell me he is safe and an die." "He is safe," the fireman muttered, and all knew his reply was best. She died, and her body was lifted with those of hundreds

The calamity was so overwhelming that the firemen and the policemen, who were the first to reach the upper parts of the house, could not realize its astonishing They began by dragging a body or two from the terrible piles at the head of the stairways, as if they did not know the piles were made of human bodies.

Gradually the full significance of the catastrophe dawned upon them. All the lights of the theatre had been extinguished. The lanterns of the firemen cast only a dim glow over the piles of dead. From the bodies arose small curls of steam. The firemen had drenched the piles before they knew they were made up of humar

Then the work of taking out the inanimate forms began. There were constant appeals for more help. The bodies of little children, torn and bleeding, were tenderly lifted, each by a firemen or policeman, and carried to the street below. Two or three men were needed to bear the heavier bur-

Every now and then a form faintly breathing was dragged out of the pile. These were handled with even more tenderness than the others as they were carried down the marble stairway of the gilded foyer. Now and then a faint groan was heard coming from the bottom of the pile. This was the signal for renewed and frantic efforts on the part of the rescuers to untangle the human mass.

In the balcony, scattered about the aisles and among the charred seats, were found many bodies. One mother, clasping her child, was found kneeling as if in prayer, with her back to the stage, from which had come the death dealing sheet of flame She had protected her child from the flames but the little one was dead in the arms of its mother. As the work of rescue progressed dozens of blankets were brought, and the bodies were carried down in these.

The scene, immediately after the fire was got under control and the work of rescue began, was appalling. All the gilt and tinsel of the theatre, all the silks and plushes, all the rich hangings, all the frescoes, had been wiped out. The flames from the stage had swept the entire theatre and left their blight everywhere. The upholstery on many of the seats was still intact, though. But for the failure of some one to act, when action meant life for hundreds, only a few might have perished. The thin sheet of asbestos that could have saved all failed

RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS ARRIVE. In a remarkably short time men whose

wives and children had gone to see "Mr. Bluebeard" reached the scene. It was a hopeless task to try to find their loved ones. Through the tiers of dead and dying in the buildings all about men and women searched with frenzied faces. Now and again a searcher would find one for whom he looked. When the dead was found the searcher knelt in prayer.

of the theatre. His eyes were blinded with fear and he did not see the firemen pass out with unconscious forms in their arms. Before a group of men he scood for a moment. Then he asked if any one had been niured in the fire.

"My wife and boy were there," he murmured. "Did every one get out?"

Tears came to the eyes of the men in the little group. At that instant five firemen staggered down the stairs, each bearing a human form. One of the men pointed

ROBBERY OF THE DEAD

Amid even such sad scenes the pickpockets were busy. The police kept watch as best they could, but the ghouls snatched many purses from the dead and dving and wrenched rings from the fingers that could no longer offer resistance.

Several of these men were caught in their work. They received at the moment punishment all too light for their crime. Only a few were arrested and taken to the police station, where they will be held to await the course of the law. Eddie Foy, star of the company, his son

and all the people of the "Bluebeard" company got out of the theatre. It is said that the audience was one of the largest that has attended a performance of "Mr Bluebeard." A side entrance on the west side of the house, it is said, was locked, and a stampede of those who tried to get out that way followed. A panel in a window close by was broken, but only one at a time could get out that way. EDDIE FOY, THE STAR, TELLS HOW IT STARTED

Eddie Foy, star of the company, said after his escape: "The fire began in the middle of the second act. It was when the moonlight scene was on. An electric wire broke and was grounded, and from this the flames were started in the rear of the stage. The stage is unusually wide, and there was so great a draught the flames spread rapidly. They soon had attacked all the scenery in the rear of the stage. I never saw flames spread so quickly

"When the fire first began, I went to the footlights, and, to prevent alarming the audience, I said there was a slight blaze and that it would be better to go out quietly. Then I stepped back and ordered the asbes tos curtain down. This, when part way The great majority of those who had down, refused to go further, and thus an additional draught was created. This swept the flames out into the auditorium and knew the theatre was doomed.

"I hurried back on the stage and aided in getting the women members of the company into the alley. Some of them were in the dressing room and were almost overcome before they could get to the stage and to the doors. When I saw all were out I hurried to the hotel. There was no chance o change my costume.

The work of rescuing was begun slowly. but as soon as it was once started it progressed rapidly. Aside from the policemen and firemen, many city and county officials as well as leading business men, aided. County Commissioner William Hale Thompson was among the first to help. He carried out more than half a score of bodies. M. S. Davidson of the Underwriters' Association carried out ten.

James Markham, private secretary to thlef O'Neil, as soon as he learned of the condition of affairs, telephoned to every hospital in the city which has an ambu lance asking that it be offered in service in removing the injured and dead, and also called upon a score or more of under takers to send their wagons to the scene

BELIEF FROM A MEDICAL COLLEGE

William A. Dyche, business manager of

through the rear, mustered a relief corps of the faculty and surgeons in the vicinity, who were on hand almost at the time when the climax of the panic was reached.

"Looking from my windows into the I estimate that at least 300 people are there dead," said Dr. Dyche, "This is a conservative estimate.

The window of Dr. Dyche's room overooks and commands the best view of the theatre. Hose carts were quickly emptied and used for taking away victims. Marshall Field & Co. sent hundreds of blankets to be used in caring for the dead and

injured. More than twenty bodies lay for a long time in the old Tremont House unidentified. Twelve persons were carried into Bullard & Gormully's store, where they died within ten minutes from the poisonous gases they had inhaled. Most of those who were suffocated were in the balcony, where they succumbed to the gases which arose from the burning plush seats when they caught fire from the curtain, which fell forward as it was burned from its fastenings

HEROIC WORK OF STUDENTS.

Great loss of life was prevented and many lives were saved by the heroic rescue work of the students, faculty, janitors and workmen in the Northwestern University building. The rescue work of the people in the top balcony was effectively done by the people in the university building. The her and said platform of the theatre fire exits on the top palcony was directly opposite the third loor fire escape platform of the university building and on a line with the law school lecture room. Kalsominers, decorators and painters were at work in this ecture room, using large planks to make platforms

When the people crowded upon the firescape platform of the theatre the students, faculty and workmen rushed to the lecture room and placed the large planks across he alley upon the two fire escape platforms thus making a strong walk, upon which hundreds managed to get over. Most of the people injured, who were in the top balcony, were taken out by this exit, and were cared for at the University building.

After the first alarm of fire, and just when the excitement was at its height, two gas tanks exploded hurling fragments through the roof and burning débris all over the theatre. This is what caused the rapid spread of the fire. Flames started in every quarter of the place and leaped from the drapery of the boxes to the tiers of seats in the balcony.

Kohlsaat's restaurant is immediately in the rear of the theatre in Dearborn street adjoining the halls of the old Tremont hotel building. Women and children more or less seriously injured in their frantic efforts to escape from the playhouse were hurried into these buildings by the police and firemen. The women grew hysterical, shrieking for their children, from whom they had become separated in the rush Their own injuries were forgotten in their anxiety for the safety of their kin.

Those most seriously injured were laid at once summoned to attend their hurts. Shrieks and groans filled the halls of the building as the sufferers were carried in

and placed on the floor. Eighteen doctors worked over six tables n Thompson's restaurant. As soon as a victim died, the body was placed on the floor to make room for a sufferer, and soon there was a great heap of dead bodies. All the into service, and even then there was not | the different morgues is: Jordan's, 16; room for the dead. Scores were laid on the | Madison street, 100 inside and 75 more in sidewalk. Covered express wagons and drays were pressed into service and the infortunates were hurried to the morgues. BISHOP MULDOON A HERO IN THE RESCUES.

Bishop Muldoon, with a prayer upon his lips, with his coat off, worked among the injured and dying inside of the theatre. He was passing the theatre when the panic started and rushed in to lend a helping hand. He climbed into the gallery and there directed the work of rescue. Firemen and policemen rushed upon him to get him out, but he remained among the suffering, while

the smoke and flames came close to him. At the top of his voice the Bishop begged he people to put their trust in God and to calm themselves. His overcoat, coat and hat were held by a friend in front of the theatre. The sight of the Bishop gave courage to many, while the Roman Catholics who vere injured received absolution from him upon the scene. It was not until after he had been assured that all the injured had been taken out and that there was no hy ing person in the place that he consented be taken out.

Sheriff Barrett, who saw Bishop Muldoon taking off his coat and going into the theatre to help the rescue work, followed in his The firemen and police, after the steps. first rush was over, tried to get the Bishop to leave, but he would not. Then danger threatened all from the north wail, which might drop at any moment, and the police, Sheriff Barrett and the firemen by force led him out.

ACTING MAYOR SAYS SPARE NO EXPENSE Acting Mayor McCann was instructed by hairman Mayor of the Council Finance Committee as soon as the extent of the horror was known to direct the Fire Marshal. Chief of Police and Commissioner of Public Works to proceed in the emergency without any restriction whatever with regard to expense in caring for the people.

"Do anything needful, spend anything you want in this cause and lock to the Council for support," he was told. "The Finance Committee will be your authority.

Mr. McCann hurried to his office, got into communication with the various departments, invested the city officials with authority as regards expense and action, and within ten minutes 150 men and seventy wagons, used on the First Ward streets, were at the disposal of the fire and police departments

Chief of Police O'Neil was in the Council chamber hearing charges against Lieut. Mulcahy when he was notified of the seriousness of the fire. He hurried to the theatre. Marshal Musham was sitting in executive session with the fire trial board when at 3:33 o'clock the alarm struck They listened and when the magnitude of the fire was understood the board adjourned and, led by the Chief, accusers and all, the firemen went to fight the flames.

TWENTY PALL FROM A FIRE ESCAPI. Charles B. Taylor, a janitor, was washing windows in the University Building, directly across the areaway from the theatre

lege, when he heard the cries of alarm in fire was raised a score or more men, women the theatre and saw the actresses fleeing and children clambered onto the platform of the fire escape, each crushing the other in the mad fight to climb to a place of safety The terrible crush prevented any from descending.

While the heartrending appeals for help valley of death in the ruins of the theatre, rose high above the din inside the theatre, and while the awful fight for mastery was being made on the small iron platform. two huge iron doors, which up to that time had held the flames inside, burst open and a wave of fire swept upon the mass of humanity

With shrieks, the twenty or more were swept from the platform. One woman nearest the outside fell headlong to the pavement, alighting upon her head. In a moment a pile of human beings was heaped upon her. Taylor says he believes all in that terrible crush were killed.

GIRLS IN TIGHTS ON THE STREET

The chorus was compelled to dress in the cellar. Many of the women were in the dressing rooms when the fire started. Exit from the cellar was cut off by heavily barred doors. The men were forced to break them open. During this delay many of the girls received painful burns. The girls were forced into the street wearing tights. They took refuge in the Union Hotel and the Sherman House.

Viola McDonald, one of the most beautiful chorus girls on the stage, was in tights when the cry of "fire" rang through the theatre. She turned to the girl next to

"I'll not go out on the street in these

tights if I am burned to death. She then ran down stairs to a dressing room to put on her skirt. She got into the skirt and then heard a crash overhead. She found her egress barred by fallen and burning timbers. She was the last person to leave the stage part of the theatre without injury. She was hauled out through a coal hole by three brawny firemen.

The last of the bodies taken into the old remont building were removed at 70'clock o-night. Firemen are still working by calcium light, taking the dead from the balcony. Bodies were found sitting straight up in the seats, where persons had fainted from fright and been suffocated by smoke and gases

In another part of the balcony, where the blaze had been blown upward and back, one little girl was found dead. Her hair had been burned off and her face badly scorched by the flames. In her lap lay a fur muff unharmed by the fire, which had swept over and around the upper part of her body. Some of the victims had fallen back in their seats in utter collapse and met their fate.

WORK OF IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT. Only a small number of the dead have een identified by relatives. Identification in most cases has been by clothing. Hundreds of weeping persons cannot find their missing ones because of the crowds. In the morgues there is a constant stream of horrified mourners passing in and out, some having found their own among the victims. and others hastening sorrowfully away to seek elsewhere for loved ones.

Coroner Traeger issued an and at a or relatives be permitted to inspect the odies at the morgues for two hours. This was done to give the undertakers an opportunity to arrange the bodies and so expedite their identification. He said to-night that will summon a jury of six prominent men to inspect the remains to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

ESTIMATES FROM THE MORGUES.

wagons on the outside; Rolston's, 22; Adams street, 75 inside and 100 in wagons in Adams street; Buffon's, 1772 Wabash avenue, 50: County Morgue, 10: Gavin's, 226 North Clark street, 25; Sheldon's, 230 West Madison street, 25.

Three wagonloads, each containing from eight to twelve bodies, were taken to each of the latter two undertaking rooms. when accommodation was not to be had downtown. Many of the dead are also at the morgues at the Samaritan, St. Luke's and Mercy hospitals.

ESCAPE OF THE CHORES GIRLS Piloted to a Coal Hole and Fifty of Them

Taken Out by Firemen. CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—In the basement of the theatre when the fire started, Maggie Levine was in charge of twelve girls who were preparing to appear in the scene entitled "The Hunters." When Miss Levine When Miss Levine heard the cries of fire and the sounds of the commotion following over her head she shouted, "My God, girls what can be the

matter?" A moment later a panic stricken crowd of fifty or more chorus girls were struggling for their lives. Smoke rolled down through the trap doors in suffocating clouds and almost obliterated the dim light from the incandescents. Doxie Marlowe, Dot Downing, Zaza Belasco and Marie Janette were knocked down and trampled by their sister chorus girls and the few men in the chorus. Doxie Marlowe was so much overcome by the smoke that she was unconscious for the time being and had to be carried

James Gallagher, a member of the men's chorus, took command of the frightened and half-suffocated girls and instructed them to take hold of one another's hands. He took the lead and grasping the foremost of the girls by the hand led the way through the basement from the stage to the front f the theatre building, where he reached the coal cellar under the sidewalk in Randolph street.

With a stick he forced the coal hole covers off and this sufficed to signal the firemen that help was wanted. Ladders were lowered and each of the fifty girls and their male companions were drawn out of the

A. Hart, one of the minor employees, was barely able to talk as he fell out of the stage entrance into the street, his clothing torn, his face bruised, and spitting blood from the crushing he seceived on the back stairway. As soon as he was able to talk he said:

"We were in the middle of the second act, with a full chorus singing the 'Moonlight Song,' when an electrical fuse blew out, a tiny spark of flame communicated with an inner curtain and the blaze started. The singers, trained for such an emergency, kept at their work in order to give the audience a chance to retire without a panic.

An attempt was made to let down the asbestos curtain. It stuck, one end failing to work. Then there was a scramble for the dressing rooms, which are in a tier from the basement to the top of the

the Northwestern University Medical Col- fire escape. Immediately after the cry of building and to the extreme west wall of the structure. They were without windows except the few on the alley at the north Efforts to secure clothes were abandoned on account of the dense smoke from the burning scenery, and the crowd made for the exits on the ground floor.

"Many rushed to the elevator. It, too, was stuck. Whether any one was in it or not, I did not stop to see. With a dozen others of the employees, I formed a life line from the stairway to the west stage entrance, and in that way reached as many of the chorus women as we could, as they rushed by screaming and paniestricken. This did not last long, as we were driven out by the smoke and got into the hall at the bottom of the stairs and the small entry room at the west stage entrance.

"I said a few prayers, and you may de pend upon it that I thought I would be dead in a few minutes. The scene was terrible I was in the middle of a mass of fighting men and women, all struggling to reach that little door. The smoke was driving us from the body of the building to that exit How I ever got out I don't know. It was a mix-up and fight for life for all of us, and the pressure from behind almost crushed my ribs.

"The last I remember on the inside was some one yelling, above the din of all other screams and yells: 'Go to the north enrance.' A great many behind me turned from where they were to follow that voice from within the cloud of smoke. How many gotout I don't know. But a moment or two later, nearly fainting, I was tossed

out backward through that little door." Father McDonald of the Holy Name Cathedral, in company with S. E. Carroll, came along Dearborn street, when the shrieks of the chorus girls who tried to get out of the theatre, reached them. Father McDonald and Mr. Carroll rushed into the alley and saw four girls trying to get out hrough a coal hole back of the stage of he theatre. The priest and his friend rescued the four women, who were taken to their homes. Their names are Violet Young, Dora Selfe, Alice M. Bartlett and

DRIVERS SAID NO.

Strikers Refused to Aid in Driving th Injured From the Fire.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- According to W. D. Moore, who agreed to send all his carriages for relief of fire sufferers, the livery drivers flatly refused to drive them to the theatre to help in the work. Frederick W. Job telephoned to Mr. Moore, proprietor of a livery stable at 2021 Wabash avenue, asking that he send his carriages. Mr. Moore assented and later went to the union headquarters, told the drivers congregated there that he had donated his rigs and asked them to man them. He said they emphatically refused to do so.

WOMAN'S STORY OF THE HORROR.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- Katherine Kenney

In All the Heaped-up Dead Not Pive Were

Brookes, a well known woman newspaper writer, tells this story of the fire "A pile of children and men and women four feet deep and fifteen or twenty feet square, a mass of crisped humanity; arms and legs and headless trunks-that was the first thing I saw, and over all the sickening smell of burned human flesh. What appealed to me most were the children, little boys and girls -boys in knee breeches and girls in short skirts and with braids

down their backs - little ones who a few moments before had been listening to the fascinating story of 'Bluebeard.' "The pity of it all was that they were warned. Burton Holmes says that after the fire was discovered on the stage it was announced to the audience, and they were begged to go out quietly and without confusion. If they had gone out when the

announcement was made, hundreds of them would have been alive to-day. "But they thought it was a joke, part of the play, and laughed and sat in their seats placidly and waited for death. Two hours later I saw them lying in a pile horrible to the sight and smell in Thompson's restau-I saw more than a hundred, perhaps rant. hundred and fifty. In another store, across the street, twenty-five lay dead. In Vaughan's seed store were forty more, and in other stores near by no one knew how

"The fire happened at a most disastrous time. It was the holiday week for the children, and a visit to 'Bluebeard' was part of the Christmas treat. The theatre was filled with children and women, the worst kind of a crowd in case of a panic. In the hundred or more dead bodies I saw. there were not more than four or five men.

'Thompson's restaurant looked like battlefield. Near the door and to the left was a mass of charred humanity thrown into a pile. As a body was brought in. the doctors would work over it a few moments and then, when it was discovered that life had really left the body, it would be flung aside to make room for the next one. There was no time for order. The dead lay with arms and legs interwoven until, in some cases, the policemen had to work nard to extricate them from the pile when they began the work of carrying

them to the morgue. "At the top of the mountain of what had once been human beings lay a little girl about 8 years of age. Her golden hair was in a long braid down her back, but the face was unrecognizable and the upper part of her clothing was burned away. Her arms were thrown over her head, as if she had been trying to fight off death.

"Underneath the little girl was a man with his head burned to a crisp. One man's head was burned completely off to the shoulders. Every face was distorted. In most cases the skin was burned away.

Bodies were everywhere-lying ove chairs where they had been thrown, under neath tables, three or four deep on the tables, sitting up on chairs.

"At one table there was a sudden stir. doctor came in and believed that he had found signs of life in one of the bodies, that of a woman. A crowd of fifteen or twenty doctors gathered at once. They administered oxygen, gave hypodermic injections of whiskey and brandy and finally of boiling hot coffee.

"They tried every method known to medical science to bring back life to the woman but all to no purpose. After nearly an hour's work they gave up, and the body

Black Diamond Express to Buffalo and Chicago daily, leaves 23d St. ferry, Lehigh Valley R. R., 10:25 A. M.-Ade. was unceremoniously thrown into a blanket

and carried to the morgue. "Back in the restaurant, near the kitchen, was a woman who had been resuscitated. She was the only one who was brought back

to life. Her face was burned so badly as to be unrecognizable. "The place was crowded with anxious ones seeking to find their dead. They would go up to one of the bodies, hesitate a moment before lifting the blanket that covered the face, and then turn away in despair Over all came the voices of policemen crying "Clear the aisles there!" as they carried the bodies to the express wagons, for the undertakers could not furnish enough hearses

ESCAPE OF A BOX PARTY.

Mrs. Keyes Had a Lot of School Girls With Her-All Got Out.

and express wagons were pressed into ser-

vice to carry the bodies to the morgue.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- One of the most miraculous escapes was that of the box party given by Mrs. Rollin A Keyes of Evanston to several students from the Mrs. Somer School of Washington, D. C. In the party were Mrs. Keyes, her daughters. Mrs. Harry B. Pearson and Miss Katherine Keyes, Miss Elsie Flmore of Astoria, Ore.: Miss Grace Hill, daughter of Charles F. Hill, Greenwood avenue; Miss Marie Peters of Columbus, Ohio; Miss Cornelia Armsby, daughter of Mrs. J. K. Armsby of Evanston; Elizabeth and Josephine Eddy, daughters of Morris R. Eddy, and Miss Charlotte Plamondon, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Plamondon, the well known manufacturer, who resides with his family at the Chicago Beach Hotel.

The party was given by Mrs. Keyes for her daughter. Katherine, and was preceded by a luncheon at the Auditorium Annex. They were late in reaching the theatre, and were assigned to the two front boxes on the south side of the theatre. Miss Charlotte Plamondon, who waited until the fire had caught in the curtains over the front box in which she sat before attempting to get out, was seen shortly after she arrived at the Chicago Beach Hotel this evening.

"I can't tell you how I escaped. I only know that when the flames began to crackle over my head and dart down from the curtains of our box I leaped over the railing of the box and fell in the arms of some man. I think he was connected with the theatre, for he immediately set me down in a seat and told me to be quiet for a moment

"Then I think I lost all reason. I have & vague recollection of having been pushed up the side aisle that runs along by the boxes. It was as quiet as death for a moment. The great audience rose like a single person, but no sound escaped it. Those in front were wedged in the doorways. Then a scream of terror went up that I shall never forget. It rings in my ears now. Women screamed and children cried. Men were shouting and rushing for the entrances, leaping over the prostrate forms of children and women, and carry-

ing others down with them. "I was soon sensible of the fact that was being carried along in the mass of frantic humanity that surged toward the main entrance. I did not feel any pain or suffocation. My mind seemed to be a blank as I think of it now, excepting for this screaming of the women and the crying of the children. It pierced right through

"Back of me, I remember, there was a sheet of flame that seemed to be gathering in volume and reaching out for us. Then I forgot again and not until the crowd surged toward the wall and caught me between it and the marble pillar did I realize what I was doing and just what position the danger was. The pain revived me I know I was almost crushed to death, but it did not hurt. Nothing could hurt with the screaming, the agonized cries of the women and children ringing in your

ears. "And then somehow I found myself out on the street and the dead and dving were around me. When I realized that I was out of the place and safe from the fire and crush all my strength seemed to leave me. My knees trembled and for the life of I could not have taken a step. The cold air braced me after a moment and I went around to the drug store where the dead were being brought in and the poor actresses and chorus girls were coming in with little

on them. "I remembered that I helped to dress some of the chorus girls and expressed pity for them, but what else I did I don't know.

"Miss Elmore and myself managed to keep together and found each other soon after we got out on the street. When Miss Hills was pushed out of the entrance she ran as fast as she could to the Marshall Field store. I never felt as I did when the fire first started and it dawned upon us that the theatre was on fire. It seemed like a cream at first.

"The border curtain right near our box blew back and I think it hit a light or something and when it fell back into place I saw it was on fire. It was just at that time that I felt like one in a dream. It was during the moonlight scene and it seemed all like fairyland to me, even the flames on the curtain. The men had just finished singing their part and the girls came down

to meet them. "The chorus girls kept right on singing for a couple of minutes, it seemed. Then one of the stage men rushed out onto the stage and shouted: 'Keep your seats!'

The chorus legt up and soon I saw the men grabbing the girl's noses. I suppose that was to keep the smoke and flame from stifling them. The stage men behaved like heroes. Presently I saw a couple of the girls fall down and I knew that they were overcome. Just then Eddie For ran out on the stage partly made up and cried:

'My God, people, keep your seats!' "When Foy said this I regained my senses and when the asbestos curtain did not come down, I felt that the situation was critical. The flames had taken hold of the front row of seats behind the orchestra and were creeping up the curtains over our box. when I jumped to my feet and leaped over the railing. I suppose I would have been hurt at any other time, but I fell on other people and a man put his arms around me and put me down in a seat."

Miss Plamondon's two sisters were sitting

only three seats distant from the boxes in which there were other members of the Keyes party. In this party were Augustus brother of the Eddy girls in the box. and Carroll Shaffer, son of J. C. Shaffer. Mr. Eddy, Miss Plamondon says, made a

heroic effort to reach the box in which his sisters sat, but was carried along to mob, which bedged him in and a cold a off his teet. He mann out to a

ever, after a hard struggle, and as an ang